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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
23 October 1953

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Arab Military Pact Considered Important for MEDO

The American Ambassadors in Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan have endorsed the suggestion of the Embassy in Cairo that preliminary approaches to the Arab countries on MEDO should include some of the phrases and ideas used in the Arab Collective Security Pact. They emphasize that these nations are proud of the pact and would be hurt by Western indifference to that achievement.

Ambassador Minor in Beirut observes that the pact "has progressed so far" that the United States cannot ignore it and imply, as Britain does, that the Near East remains a "vacuum from the point of view of defense planning."

Comment: The Arab military pact alone would prove ineffective in defending the area. Nevertheless, Western references to it in any military discussions with the Near Eastern countries might lessen Arab fears that MEDO is foreign-imposed, with no consideration for Arab interests or achievements.

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